



AFRICAN VOICES

A NEWSLETTER ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA

USAID Bureau for Africa, Office of Sustainable Development Vol. 8, No. 1 Spring/Summer 1999

USAID Assists Nigeria's Democracy Process

Nigeria's recent elections marked a crucial step towards establishing an accountable and transparent government in a country that has seen eight coups in the 39 years since its independence. USAID/Nigeria's democracy and governance (DG) program has been very active in this transition process, from pre-election activities, through sponsorship of election observers, to planned education and training exercises following the change in government.

A series of local, state, national assembly, and presidential elections were held between December 1998 and February 1999. Retired General Olusegun Obasanjo won the presidential election with nearly 63 percent of the vote and was sworn in on May 29. USAID/Nigeria sponsored three major observer missions during the elections: the International Republican Institute (IRI), and the joint missions of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and The Carter Center (TCC), and the Association of African Election Authorities (AAEA) and the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES). Although observers noted improvements in the electoral process between the first and last elections, they also noted a



NDI-Eric Happel

Going through the voting process in Kano State, Nigeria

considerable amount of election fraud. For example, there were reports of stacks of sequentially numbered ballots marked with the same thumbprint being stuffed into ballot boxes, anomalous polling places with 100 percent voter turnout when nearby polls experienced drastically lower rates, voting by underage individuals, and other questionable practices.

In addition to their observation activities, IRI produced a handbook for polling agents and held training seminars in 26

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Women's NGOs Making their Voices Heard in Uganda

By Marion E. Doro

It is clear that the democratization process in Africa is a work in progress that will ultimately be shared by the political culture of each African state. It is also increasingly clear that many African female leaders and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have a significant role in this incremental process to achieve goals for women in a civil society that would otherwise be neglected. However, it is not an easy path. They must cope not only with the evolutionary character of democratization and limited financial resources but also with the "it is our culture" syndrome that many men frequently use to insist that the universalization of human

rights is inconsistent with African tradition. Women's role in the democratization process is essentially that of converting the vernacular of human rights into the realities of genuine participation in the political process to achieve concrete goals such as ending spousal abuse, reforming domestic relations and property rights legislation, and improving educational and health services, especially for women and children.

The evolution of Ugandan women's NGOs into political action organizations is of historic significance. An earlier generation was reactive in defense of their human rights, engaging in adjustments and accommodation over specific circumstances to achieve specific remedies. In more recent years female leaders have become proactive, universalizing human rights and mobilizing groups in the civil society for the purpose of creating political space for themselves to initiate changes in public policy. Many Ugandan women trace this

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transformation to two distinct factors in the early 1980s: 1) the end of the horrors and deprivations of the repressive Idi Amin/Milton Obote regimes, and the subsequent introduction in 1986-87 of President Yoweri Museveni's supportive measures designed to include women in the constitutional and legislative processes; and 2) the 1985 United Nations Conference in Nairobi to review the UN Decade for Women, which was a critical stimulus for Ugandan female leaders to become activists. They had coped courageously with the socioeconomic devastation of the Amin/Obote period and many of them emerged into the Museveni era empowered not only by a sense of release from the constraints of traditionalism but inspired by the initiatives of women's NGOs elsewhere. Finally, unlike many situations elsewhere in Africa, they were fortunate that the Museveni government offered extensive support for gender advancement.

Numerous NGOs, a few of which are described below, promote socioeconomic advancement for women and give them opportunities to engage in public debate. Among the oldest is Action for Development (ACFODE). Established in 1985, its agenda includes providing bursaries for school girls throughout the country and offering civic education in all the regions during election campaigns to encourage citizens to select qualified candidates and to vote. One of the most politically inclined NGOs is the Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), which encourages public dialog on gender sensitive governance issues such as tax policy and

reform of land and domestic relations laws. The organization also works towards enhancing the effectiveness of female elected officials. Its chairperson, Winnie Byanyima, is an elected member of parliament. FOWODE has received funding from the joint USAID and State Department Democracy and Human Rights Fund. The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers, an affiliate of the International Federation of Women Lawyers, dates from 1974 and survived the Amin/Obote eras. Its primary goal is to aid individual women and children with legal advice and assistance, and to promote respect for women's rights. The Uganda Women's



Judy Kamanyi, right, Executive Director of ACFODE, with a volunteer election official

Marion Doro

Network serves as an advocacy network to support the activities of various women's NGOs as well as individuals and educational institutions. Many of these organizations design public meetings and workshops to raise consciousness and encourage political participation.

Other organizations also serve similar purposes, especially educational institutions.

The Women and Gender Studies Program at Makerere University now offers a three-day awareness workshop encouraging female students to assert their independence and equality by resisting encroachments on their personal and academic lives by the young male students and faculty. These workshops utilize the services of NGOs whose lectures and demonstrations sensitize students to their rights and ways to maintain their integrity, thus empowering them with the means to cope with challenging circumstances.

All of these various activities are essentially "education for democracy." In the absence of a political party system, the NGOs serve as connections between units of civil society and for-

mal governmental institutions. One finds that the government is responsive to some public demands either by responding to specific claims or tolerating criticism in the media or censure efforts in the parliament. While some responses may seem marginal, it is evidence that the government is listening. In the mid-1998 local council elections at the lower constituency levels, many women were reluctant to participate in the "queue," or "lining up" voting method. While election officials pointed out the expense of a secret ballot the women expressed their concerns about publicly voting against a candidate who was their neighbor or the punishment husbands inflicted on them when they did not vote for the candidate of his choice. While the government did not change the voting method for those specific elections, it is clear that the queue method will not be used again. These activities set precedents for units

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African Voices is published quarterly by the Africa Bureau Information Center, operated by the Academy for Educational Development under contract to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and is part of the Research and Reference Services project of USAID's Center for Development Information and Evaluation.



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African Voices provides a forum for dialogue on democratization in Africa. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect USAID policies. Comments, letters, articles, and announcements are welcome. Send them to:

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USAID/Mali Uses Cross-Sectoral Approach to Democracy

By Anne O'Toole Salinas and David Miller

When formulating its current strategic plan, USAID/Mali seized the opportunity presented by political liberalization and recent decentralization reforms to integrate democracy and governance principles into community level education and economic development work. While it is too soon to assess the overall impact, there is evidence that this approach can not only further democratic governance but can also further progress towards results in other sectors.

The Mali Mission's new DG program approach has been to work through existing USAID activities in other sectors, tying DG activities to the achievement of shared needs within a community. In adopting this strategy, USAID aims to have a greater overall impact in Mali and to achieve the DG objective of making "targeted community organizations effective partners in democratic governance, including development decision-making and planning." At the activity level, the DG program seeks primarily to strengthen the capacity of organizations and associations through civic action training. As part of this effort, the DG team has developed a training manual for civic action to be used as a resource by USAID implementing partners in Mali.

In late 1998, a team made up of a consultant, two DG experts, and an human capacity development expert from USAID/Washington spent two weeks in Mali to look at the Mission's efforts to increase cross-sectoral DG linkages. One of the areas examined by the team was the country context and the opportunities it could or does present for the integration of DG-related activities into all parts of the USAID program. Among the trends and events that emerged as having contributed to the path chosen by USAID/Mali were the formation of a vibrant civil society in Mali and significant progress towards democratic decentralization. For example, elections in

May and June 1999 created 682 new local government units.

In addition to a positive country context and strong history of USAID support for community level development, USAID/Mali benefited from being one of 10 country experimental labs that not only gave it a head start in "reengineering" but also licensed it to develop an innovative, integrated program. In the participatory process used to develop the current country strategy, synergies between program areas

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were made an explicit focus. The resulting strategy commits the Mission to pursue activities that provide mutually reinforcing overlap between any two or three program objectives.

The final report of the Mali cross-sectoral DG linkages study, written by David Miller, a consultant, identifies three key devices that served to facilitate integration within USAID/Mali's program. First, the Mission decided to geographically concentrate activities in four of Mali's eight regions and 175 of its 448 communes. Second, the Mission also chose to consolidate by establishing four joint cooperative agreements (CAs) with private voluntary organizations (PVOs), with funding from, and seeking results for, each of USAID/Mali's three objectives in the areas of youth, economic growth, and democratic governance. These four CAs receive over one-third of the Mission's yearly budget and are jointly managed by cross-sectoral Cooperative Agreement Committees. Third, the Mission integrated DG resources into non-DG activities through undertaking joint

policy studies. While still quite new, these three approaches all appear to be relatively effective, in part because they are supported by cross-sectoral visits to activity sites and ad-hoc inter-sectoral staff meetings.

Looking at specific activities where DG principles had been integrated into other sectors, the study team found some exciting early results. For example, in the education sector, a USAID activity seeking to strengthen parent teacher associations (PTAs) in Mali has benefited significantly from DG-sponsored civic action training. The study team found that, before the training promoted by the DG program, the PTAs with whom World Education, a U.S.-based NGO, worked were not taking the lead in the management of their schools. They simply provided financial assistance to schools

and continued to expect the government to provide resources and leadership. The civic education and advocacy training World Education organized under the current CA has apparently changed the attitude of the PTA members. They now consider themselves the owners of the schools they built. Prior to the joint CA, schools did not always receive their portion of locally collected taxes (*Taxe de Développement Régional et Local*, TDRL). Following the more aggressive approach under the current CA, local PTAs have claimed, and received, their just portion of the TDRL.

In the economic growth sector, the DG elements have been fully integrated into one USAID activity that seeks to "assist rural-based businesses and organizations to support the empowerment of their members through democratic, transparent, and participatory processes." Within the terms of this project, implemented by the Cooperative League of the United States of

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states between November and February. NDI/TCC visited 335 polling stations during the presidential election and met with a cross section of Nigerian political party leaders, election officials, and representatives of NGOs. They also sponsored training for election monitors and are working to set up a network of democracy NGOs. The AAEEA/IFES delegation focused on the technical aspects of the election, such as the distribution of ballots. Additionally, they issued a pre-election report that commented on registration and election procedures, voter education campaigns, and the administrative role of the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria. USAID also sponsored the participation of the South African-based African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Conflicts (ACCORD) in the pre-election training of domestic monitors. ACCORD assisted in the training of domestic monitors from trade unions and other affiliates of the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), a coalition of NGOs that participated in monitoring the elections.

In April, as a follow up to elections assistance, USAID/Nigeria and the Agency's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) launched a nationwide effort to train newly elected officials. When completed in August, the training will have covered over nearly all 11,000 elected officials at local, state, and national levels. Designed to provide a foundation for leadership and respect for democratic processes, the workshops held so far have been enthusiastically attended. Elected officials at all levels who participated in the workshops have requested additional training.

Since the elections, USAID has continued to support NDI, IRI and IFES. NDI is providing assistance to the transition monitoring group as it defines its role in a post-transition Nigeria and trained the newly elected governors. IRI supported an orientation workshop initiated by President-elect Obasanjo for his would be policy advisors and top

party officials. The workshop was facilitated by IRI shortly before the May 29th inaugural. This effort was part of IRI's ongoing assistance to the democratic development of political parties.

The Mission's democracy work started long before dates for an election or plans for a democratic transition were ever announced. The DG program was initiated in 1996 to encourage popular support for democratic change from the military government then ruled by General Sani Abacha. Despite being a relative newcomer to the sector in Nigeria, the USAID program is now the largest donor-funded DG program in the country. Most of USAID/Nigeria's ef-

Generations of Nigerians have grown up with no firsthand knowledge of a functioning democracy.

forts have targeted women's and youths' organizations, an approach that has yielded impressive results.

A key objective of USAID's pre-election DG activities was to strengthen civil society through the building of coalitions by organizations that could affect and sustain democratic change. This initiative led to the establishment of several coalitions by women's organizations under its 100 Women's Group project. These coalitions work on a variety of issues ranging from women's empowerment and human rights to fielding female candidates in elections. The initiative has also had an impact on women's representation: 124 female participants in the DG program ran for office in local government elections; 43 of them won council seats and 73 were appointed as Sole Administrators of Local Government Areas (LGA). Moreover, seven women were elected as senators in 1998.

USAID/Nigeria's approach to women's empowerment is to link democracy and governance and health activities. USAID supports DG-related projects in health organizations as well as health-related projects in DG organizations. For example, the Oyo Market

Women Association (OMWA) is a group that was founded to increase the numbers of effective female leaders. The new leaders emerging from OMWA most often turn their attention to health issues, specifically hygiene and sanitation in Ibadan markets, and have successfully lobbied the local government for regular refuse disposal services.

Generations of Nigerians have grown up with no firsthand knowledge of a functioning democracy. To break that cycle, the DG program has an active youth component that supports school-based leadership clubs. The more than 1,000 members of the Gumel Youth Movement, for instance, focus on democracy-related issues and promote women's empowerment. In 1998, they formed 10 women's political empowerment clubs in Jigwa State secondary schools. These clubs went on to sponsor two candidates, a boy and a girl, for LGA and councilor positions, both of whom won.

Plans are in motion for USAID/Nigeria to expand the focus of the DG program in the coming years to cover more states, expand activities with civil society, and provide support to the new democratic institutions of the elected government. The civil society component of the program will be maintained and expanded to accommodate labor unions, professional associations, and religious organizations. In coming years, more emphasis will be placed on coalition building and networking by NGOs to sustain democratic order and hold elected representatives and institutions accountable to the citizenry.

The new government of Nigeria has the unenviable task of bringing order to the near chaos prevalent in that country for much of its post-colonial history. But there is a great deal of potential there, which, if managed wisely, can bring Africa's most populous country back from the brink.

—by Christine Chumbler

Joan Johnson, USAID Desk Officer for Nigeria, and Melissa Brown of USAID/Nigeria assisted with this report.

USAID Strengthens Civil Society in Angola

By Teri Peters-Graves

Since the opening of its office in 1996, USAID/Angola has pursued the goal of strengthening democracy. After more than 30 years of civil war, Angola is still struggling with a legacy of centralized nonparticipatory government, over 500,000 war related deaths, and 3.5 million displaced persons. The signing of the cease-fire agreement Lusaka Protocol in 1994, the initial disarmament of The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), the formation of a unified army and police force, the creation of a government of national unity and reconciliation, and the transformation of UNITA from an armed revolutionary movement into a political party gave the country hope.

Unfortunately, in December 1998 the protocol collapsed and renewed fighting has severely hampered progress towards democracy. The war has compelled USAID/Angola to make some shifts in its program implementation, particularly in selection of the geographic areas where the programs are active, but it continues to be engaged in supporting the development of democratic values and attitudes in Angola.

The three principles that guide USAID's continuing engagement in the DG sector of Angola are: to support Angolans as they work to mitigate the impact of the conflict; to preposition Angolans to meaningfully influence a transition to responsible and accountable governance when the opportunity reemerges; and to support existing partners who continue their efforts under very difficult circumstances.

One of USAID/Angola's strategic objectives is to work towards national reconciliation through strengthened civil society and political institutions. USAID is the first donor agency to put in place a broad-gauge democracy and governance program in Angola. To achieve this goal, USAID/Angola funds a number of nongovernmental institutions whose objectives coincide with its own. These groups in turn focus

their work on "focal points" and "sectoral issues." The focal points include the Angolan National Assembly, Angolan political parties, and Angolan NGOs. The sectoral issues include women's rights, media development, and the protection of human rights. Currently, USAID/Angola funds the U.S.-based International Republican Institute (IRI), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), Private Agencies Collaborating Together (PACT), and World Learning, as well as a few smaller NGOs.

During 1998, IRI focused on strengthening the capacities of the members of the National Assembly in Angola. Training sessions emphasizing multiparty democracy, political strategy, and communications were the main instruments for achieving its goals. IRI also worked with other target groups during the spring and summer of 1998. These activities included the Youth in Politics and Women in Politics workshops, aimed at increasing the political participation of Angolan youth and women as both voters and public office seekers.

NDI implemented a program known as "Accountable, Democratic and Participatory Government," which focused on developing an accountable and responsive government at the provincial and local levels. This program also included civic education for the populations in the four targeted areas of Luanda, Bie, Huambo, and Kwanza Sul. In collaboration with another USAID partner, World Learning, NDI developed basic civic education manuals and materials that have been used for the Civic Education Trainer Network com-

ponent of its program. The manuals and materials are easily understood by all levels of the political spectrum and will undoubtedly increase citizens' knowledge of their rights and responsibilities



Participants in World Learning's journalist training course

Michael Leslie

in a democracy.

During July 1998, NDI was responsible for the "A Bill of Rights for Angola" seminar. Albie Sachs, a constitutional court justice in South Africa and member of South Africa's Constitutional Caucus, was the keynote speaker for this event. USAID/Angola's democracy and governance program manager, Adeyinka Oyinlola, also spoke there. The seminar, held at the National Assembly in Luanda, enjoyed a large turnout. NDI was responsible for another seminar in July, "Women's Participation in Local Government," at which Oyinlola also participated.

PACT is responsible for implementing the Angolan NGOs Institutional Strengthening Project. This program aims at strengthening national NGOs and encouraging alliances between NGOs, local businesses, external funding agencies, international NGOs, and the Angolan government.

Angolan NGOs receive organizational development assistance, technical support, and training in managerial skills to increase their effectiveness. Last year PACT held a graduation cer-

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within the civil society and government as well, adding strength to democratization processes.

Many men in academia and other professions tend to view the women's activities with skepticism, arguing that they are "elitist" because they tend to represent the middle class and do not extend their offices and services into the rural areas. This superficial reaction ignores the extent to which many NGOs, despite financial limitations, manage to function in the regions either through small offices or frequent visits of volunteers. Critics also charge that society in the rural areas is not yet receptive to

the changes in female attitudes that are needed to advance women's causes. Moreover, critics also claim that the influence women currently enjoy cannot survive the post Museveni regime. What they fail to realize is that a new generation of female leaders is emerging, encouraged and emboldened by the success of their predecessors.

The advancement of women contributes to the democratization process in many ways, perhaps most fundamentally by promoting independence and individual growth for women who not only represent one half of the population, but also nurture the next generation. These groups identify socioeconomic needs that are crucial to economic development and the growth of

stable, independent centers of power that can hold government accountable for its policies. Increasing numbers of women are active as legislators, lobbyists, public defenders, and entrepreneurs. Their effective organization, their persistence in the face of challenging circumstances, and their recent use of electronic networking to share their experiences and methods indicates that there is an expiration date on the effectiveness of the "it is our culture" syndrome.

Marion E. Doro, Ph.D. is a Lucy Marsh Haskell Professor emerita at Connecticut College. She was a Fulbright scholar at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, during 1997 and 1998.

Ways to Assist Women's NGOs in Africa

Sharing information about problems and solutions is the best starting place for American organizations to assist local women's nongovernmental organizations in Africa. The Internet is proving to be a very effective tool for discussing issues such as health, education, protection against abuse, legal aid/advice on coping with domestic relations, ending female genital cutting, and human rights. These discussions might lead to donations of funds for NGOs, books for women's studies programs, or administrative equipment; but the most valuable assistance is the moral support such contacts provide. The activists are reassured that someone cares, that what they are doing matters, and that others share their concerns. It is an enriching experience for the American groups as well as the African ones.

A Sample of Women and Gender Related NGOs and Academic Programs

Ethiopia Center for Research, Training, and Information on Women in Development (CERTWID), University of Addis Ababa, PO Box 1176, Addis Ababa .

Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (FIDA), Measa Ashenafi, Director, ewla@telcom.net.

Kenya Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW), covaw@iconnect.co.ke.

Margaret Wanzuu Foundation, Angie Dawa, Director, adawa@AfricaOnline.co.ke.

Namibia Gender Research Project, Legal Assistance Centre, Dianne Hubbard, dianne@iwwn.com.na.

Nigeria Crime Victims Foundation (CRIVIFON), Gloria Egbuji, Director, crivifon@rci.nig.com, <http://crivifon.unojust.org>, Lagos.

Gender Studies, Obefemi Awolowo University, Dr. Bisi Aina,

paina@oauife.edu.ng, Ile-lfe.

WOPED, woped@infoweb.abs.net. Promotes action to eliminate violence against women.

Women for Democracy and Leadership (WODEL), Ayoka Lawani, Director, slawani@skannet.com, Ibadan.

Women, Law and Development Centre, Dr. Keziah A. Awosika, Director, Wldev@infoweb.abs.net, Lagos.

Senegal Environment and Development in the Third World (ENDA), Marie-Helen Mottin-Sylla, mhms@enda.sn, Dakar.

South Africa Empower Women for Gender Equity in South Africa, Anne Marrian, Director, director@agenda.org.za, <http://www.oneworld.org/agenda>, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.

Sudan Omdurman Centre for Women's Studies, omdurman@worldnet.com.eg.

Uganda Action for Development (ACFODE), acfode@starcom.co.ug, P.O. 16729 Wandegaya, Kampala.

Department of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University, gendermu@swiftuganda.com, P.O. Box 7062, Kampala.

Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), fowode@starcom.co.ug P.O. Box 7176, Kampala.

National Association of Women's Organisations in Uganda (NAWOU), P.O. Box 1663, Kampala.

Uganda Women's Network, uwonet@starcom.co.ug, P.O. Box 6972, Kampala.

Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA), P.O. Box 2157, Kampala, Tel: 256-42-530848.

African News Updates Available from IRIN

The United Nations offers free, up-to-date information via e-mail on events in sub-Saharan Africa. The Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN), a unit of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, is dedicated to improving the information available to the humanitarian and international communities on crises in sub-Saharan Africa. Although aimed particularly at the humanitarian community, the service is available to everyone. IRIN "daily" and "weekly" e-mail bulletins are available in both English and French. The information is compiled from various sources: the media, UN agencies, NGOs, governments, and others.

The weekly information is issued as three separate regional bulletins: IRIN Central and East Africa (CEA), IRIN

West Africa (WA), and IRIN Southern Africa (SA). The IRIN-CEA service is also available in Kiswahili. At present, the daily information bulletin is also issued by region. However, in the near future, IRIN plans to provide an individually tailored information service for countries and subjects specified by the subscriber in addition to the weekly bulletin. In preparation for this transition, IRIN requests that subscribers specify which subjects (ie; child soldiers, OXFAM, Germany, etc.) and/or countries in sub-Saharan Africa they would like to receive information on so personalized profiles can be created. IRIN also requests that subscribers indicate if they are already subscribed to one or more IRIN services and which ones to eliminate duplication.

IRIN also offers a dissemination

service, called IRIN-EXTRA, for non-IRIN reports from the humanitarian community: donors, NGOs, international organizations, UN agencies, and others.

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Angola

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emony for the first 18 NGOs involved in its program. USAID/Angola participated in the graduation ceremony and was present as PACT began another training session in the Province of Huambo. Graduates of the first PACT training are being utilized as mentors for other community based organizations that are unable to participate in PACT's program. PACT intends to utilize trained NGO staff members to replicate their new skills at the grassroots level. PACT plans to do similar work with 30 other NGOs during the second and third year of the program. The goal is to reach more than 30 percent of Angola's NGOs.

World Learning's Angolan Civil Society Strengthening Project aims to increase the effectiveness of Angolan human rights organizations and the media through activities such as human rights education and training in advocacy and professional journalistic skills. The goals are to strengthen the roles of civil service organizations and journalists in civil society, to improve their participation in the democratization pro-

cess, and to encourage their advocacy for human rights. Last summer World Learning sponsored a four-week advanced journalism course designed to improve the professional competence of journalists and newspaper editors. Twenty-one journalists from both state and independent media participated in the program led by Professor Michael Leslie from the University of Florida.

During the spring of 1998, World Learning selected 15 Angolan NGOs to receive sub-grants to conduct human rights activities. One of the recipients, Fraternity for the Solidarity & Humanism of Children, conducted a week long seminar on children's rights that attracted a lot of media coverage. It involved various entities that promote children's rights as well as those that often violate them, such as the police and armed forces.

In addition, through the joint USAID and Department of State Democracy and Human Rights Fund, USAID supports the National Association of Women Jurists (NAWJ). In July NAWJ held a conference at the National Assembly in Luanda on

women's rights to health care, education, and housing. The guest speakers included professionals such as physicians, professors, and lawyers as well as other community leaders.

USAID supported the English Friendship Youth Club in Luanda by participating in their Democracy and Development program last year. USAID/Angola Mission Director Jim Anderson was the keynote speaker at the event. The youth voiced their concerns about development and democracy in Angola during the question and answer session of the program. This was followed by a short play presenting a dispute in the work place that the employees resolved democratically. Though Angola's official language is Portuguese, this activity was conducted entirely in English.

Teri Peters-Graves interned with USAID's Democracy & Governance Program in Angola during the summer of 1998. She received a Masters Degree in Public Policy & Administration in May 1998 from Jackson State University. She can be contacted via e-mail at <jsgraves@netdoor.com>

Mali

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America (CLUSA), civic action and education have become goals in themselves, not part of the method to achieve an economic end. CLUSA staff reported to the study team that because of the integration of DG into this activity, they now look at community development through a "DG lens" and believe that this has positively affected their work. Their work with cooperatives, which focuses on internal organizational issues, now also looks at the larger context in which the cooperatives operate. Through discussions on their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and how to advance their interests, CLUSA now helps members of cooperatives determine and improve their roles in both society and the changing government.

World Education plans to take a similar approach with the women's credit association activity it manages. This activity has achieved substantial results; the association now has 270 members (five times the number it had three years ago) and a very low loan

default rate. Women have successfully started and expanded businesses through the help of the credit association. In addition, members feel that they are now more respected by their community and two have even run for political office in recent elections. Association members, who currently receive training in both accounting and how to elect officials and organize democratically, will soon receive advocacy training with the assistance of the DG team.

USAID/Mali's experiment in DG integration is still quite new but, as time goes on, the Mission will undoubtedly learn valuable lessons on the impact of integration and the ways that it can be supported and facilitated throughout the Agency. While the obstacles and impediments may seem daunting, the potential benefits of DG cross-sectoral integration, from increased mobilization of resources to increased political participation, are even more substantial.

Anne O'Toole Salinas is a former democracy and governance research analyst at the Africa Bureau Information Center. David Miller is an independent development consultant based in Falls Church,

Virginia. Heather Brophy of AFR/SD/DG also contributed to this article.

Training Opportunity

The Dutch Royal Tropical Institute will conduct a **Training Workshop on Gender, Citizenship, and Good Governance** in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, September 5-24, 1999. The workshop is designed to help participants develop a conceptual understanding of the inter-relationship between gender, citizenship, and good governance and acquire strategic skills to prioritize gender equity as a value for and outcome of good governance. The registration deadline is July 19, 1999.

For more information, contact: Women, Gender and Development Programme, Royal Tropical Institute, P.O. Box 95001, 1090 HA Amsterdam, The Netherlands; telephone: (31) 20 5688 306; fax: (31) 20 5688 409; e-mail: cmo@kit.nl; website: www.kit.nl.

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